

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	China	REPORT	
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Tientsin

1. In June 1954 the Voice of America (VOA) programs in Chinese and English beamed to China were clearly heard in Tientsin. The reception, however, was better at night than during the day; the English language programs heard in Tientsin nightly at 9:30 were especially clear. All VOA programs in the Russian language were almost completely unintelligible in Tientsin because of constant interference. Although the ownership of short wave radio sets and listening to foreign language programs, including VOA programs, were not illegal in Tientsin, the Chinese made an effort to conceal from the police the fact that they listened to such programs. Many Chinese listened fairly regularly to VOA programs and often discussed them with other Chinese. One program which made a very favorable impression on many Chinese in Tientsin was the one in early 1954 concerning the killing of 200 tax collectors by the Chinese farmers in Kansu Province; they were pleased to hear of such incidents occurring in China.

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- 2 -

Shanghai

2. VOA programs in Chinese and English were clearly heard in Shanghai, especially at night, but VOA Russian language programs were almost completely unintelligible because of constant interference. A large number of Chinese in Shanghai were very enthusiastic about American jazz music and thoroughly enjoyed this type of music on VOA programs. Some Chinese were of the opinion that many of the VOA broadcasts were too obviously propaganda, resembling Soviet and Chinese Communist efforts and techniques along these lines; they felt these VOA programs would be more effective if handled as ordinary news broadcasts such as heard on BBC and Australian radio programs which were very popular with the English speaking Chinese in Shanghai and usually clearly received. However, all radio broadcasts from Australia and Great Britain concerning the recent Petrov spy case in Australia were almost completely unintelligible because of interference. Possession of short wave sets in Shanghai was not illegal, either for Chinese or foreigners, but very few Chinese owned one.

Harbin

3. In May 1954 BBC and Australian radio broadcasts as well as VOA broadcasts in English were clearly heard in Harbin. However, the VOA Russian language programs were impossible to understand because of constant interference. It was illegal in Harbin for Chinese to have short wave radio sets.

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